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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S)	:	Graham H. Thompson
TITLE	:	COMMUNICATION SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE FOR VOICE FIRST COLLABORATION
APPLICATION NO.	:	09/740,221
FILED	:	December 19, 2000
CONFIRMATION NO.	:	4476
EXAMINER	:	A.Q. Choudhury
ART UNIT	:	2145
LAST OFFICE ACTION	:	May 17, 2005
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	:	PERY 2 00001

TRANSMITTAL OF
APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. 41.37

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Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and request a two (2)-month extension of time up to and including at least September 17, 2005 to file this Appeal Brief. Fees in the amount of $950.00 are to be charged as indicated on the attached PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form. Please charge Deposit Account No. 06-0308 for any fee deficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE HONORABLE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re the Application of

Graham H. Thompson

Application No.: 09/740,221 Examiner: A.Q. Choudhury

Filed: December 19, 2000 Docket No.: PERY 2 00001

For: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE FOR VOICE FIRST COLLABORATION

BRIEF ON APPEAL

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I. TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Statutes

II. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest for this appeal and the present application is Mitel Network Corporation, by way of an Assignment recorded in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 016345, Frame 0283.

III. STATEMENT OF RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no prior or pending appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings, known to Appellants, Appellants' representative, or the Assignee, that may be related to, or which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing upon the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

IV. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 stand rejected and are on appeal.

V. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A Request for Reconsideration was filed on February 17, 2005. By an Advisory Action dated May 17, 2005, it was indicated that the arguments presented did not place the application in condition for allowance.

VI. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The claims do not stand or fall together. Each claim is to be considered by the Board in view of the arguments and comments submitted herein.

The subject matter of independent claim 1 is directed to a collaborative computer telephony system. The system comprises a communication network (page 3, lines 14-17); integrated computer telephony devices connected to the network and identified by unique IP addresses (page 3, lines 14-17), at least two of the integrated computer telephony devices support collaboration application programs (page 3, lines 18-22). The system also includes an indicator on at least one of the integrated computer telephony devices (page 3, lines 18-20) and a collaborate control program associated with at least two of the integrated computer telephony devices for detecting commonly supported ones of the collaboration application programs and in response activating the indicator (page 3, lines 23-32).

The subject matter of independent claim 12 is directed to a method for controlling an indicator on a telephone in the collaborative computer telephony system including a communication network. The method comprises exchanging IP addresses of at least two computers over a communication network (page 5, lines 4-6). One of the computers issues a request to a second computer for a list of the collaboration application programs supported by the second computer (page 5, lines 11-13). The list is compared with a further list of supported ones within the first computer (page 5, lines 11-14). Finally, an indicator is activated at the first device if a commonly supported collaboration application program is found (page 5, lines 11-13).

The subject matter of independent claim 13 is directed to a computer telephony apparatus for use in a collaborative computer telephony system including a network and a plurality of terminals. The apparatus includes indicator means for indicating that a collaborative session is set up with another computer telephony apparatus (page 3, lines 18-20) and collaborative control means for detecting the presence of collaborative control means in another computer telephony apparatus and for activating the indicator means in response (page 3, lines 1-17).

The subject matter of independent claim 14 is directed to a computer program for controlling a computer. The method includes receiving a request for a collaborative session with at least one additional computer (page 5, lines 11-13), issuing a request to

the other computer over a network for a list of collaborative programs supported by that computer (Figure 4), comparing the list with a list of supported collaboration programs within the computer (Figure 4) and issuing an activation signal to activate an indicator in the event that at least one collaborative program is commonly supported by the computer and the other computer (Figure 4).

The subject matter of independent claim 16 is directed to a collaborative computer telephony system comprising a communication network (page 3, lines 14-17), a plurality of integrated computer telephony devices connected to the network, where at least two of the devices support collaboration application programs for implementing communication sessions between them (page 4, lines 1-10), a user input device on at least one of the devices (Figure 1) and a collaborate control program associated with each of the devices for detecting commonly supported collaboration application programs initiating the communication session in response to the user activation of the user input device (page 4, lines 1-10).

The subject matter of independent claim 27 is directed to a method comprising the steps of detecting user activation of a user input device (Figure 4), exchanging IP addresses of at least two computers over the network (Figure 4), issuing a request from one of the computers to a second computer for a list of collaboration programs supported by the second computer (Figure 4), comparing the list with a further list of supported collaboration application programs within the first computer (Figure 4), and initiating a communication session between the computers in the event at least one commonly supported collaboration application in the computers (Figure 4).

The subject matter of independent claim 28 is directed to a computer telephony apparatus for use in a collaborative computer telephony system having a communication network. The apparatus comprises the user input for initiating a collaborative session with another computer telephony apparatus (page 3, lines 14-32) and collaborative control means for detecting the presence of collaborative control means in another computer telephony apparatus in response to user activation of the user input (page 4, lines 1-17).

The subject matter of independent claim 29 is directed to a computer program for controlling a computer to receive a request for collaborative with at least one second computer (Figure 4), issue a request to set at least one said computer over a network

for a list of collaborative programs supported by at least by the second computer (Figure 4), compare the list with a list of supported collaboration programs within the computer (Figure 4) and initiate the collaborative session in the event that at least one collaborative program is commonly supported by the two computers (Figure 4).

VII. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The following grounds of rejection are presented for review:

1. Claims 1-30 are rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Elliott, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,781).

VIII. ARGUMENT

A. Claims 1-30 Are Not Anticipated By Elliott, et al.

1. Claims 1-11

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Elliott, et al. (U.S. Patent 6,614,781). Applicants disagree. The Examiner has equated "computer telephone devices supporting collaboration application programs" with col. 2, lines 30 to 45 of Elliot. The present application specifies that desktop collaboration programs offer enhanced communication between one or more people via their desktop computers. The term "co-location" is used to describe the capability of these applications. Nowhere does the cited art provide for the collaboration feature. Since the Examiner has used the same citation to anticipate corresponding features of claims 2 to 12 and 16 to 27, the applicant contends that these claims are also not anticipated.

In the final office action the Examiner primarily reiterated the claim rejections of the first office action and unsuccessfully attempted to traverse the applicants' further arguments (see pages 2 and 3 of the final office action).

The Examiner noted that it has been argued that "desktop collaboration programs offer enhanced communication. . . ." Further, the Examiner went on to use the phase "enhance communication" to equate elements of the Elliott citation with "collaboration." This is erroneous. Although collaboration is a type of enhancement, it

is not the same enhancement as highlighted by the Examiner in Elliott. Elliott does not provide collaboration as defined by the present application. On page 3 of the application, the detailed description includes a definition of collaboration:

> The term collaboration, as used in this specification, refers to one of a number of desktop collaboration application programs, excluding voice, which allow for enhanced communication between one or more people via their desktop computers (PCs). The term "virtual co-location" will be used to describe the capability of these applications. Such applications typically run on the PC 3 at a user's desktop, or at least have their user interfaces on the desktop PC 3. Examples of such applications include video conferencing; multiple viewing access via remote PCs to a single document; PC based joint document editing; network "white boarding", etc. The operation of these collaboration application programs is beyond the scope of this specification although the structure and operation thereof would be well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

This definition is not consistent with the features cited by the Examiner on page 2 of the final office action.

Furthermore, the Examiner equates the collaboration application programs of the present set with the service control points of the Elliott reference, column 2, lines 30 through 45. Again, this is not correct. The service control point is a special application computer. A computer is not a program. Also, the service control point is involved in maintaining information in database. This does not meet the definition of collaboration established previously. A database is not commensurate with "virtual co-location, video conferencing, multiviewing access via a remote PC to a single document, PC based joint document editing, or network whiteboarding."

Finally, the Examiner equates collaborative control programs of the present claim set with call gapping as defined in Elliott, column 42, lines 38 through 51. Again, applicants do not agree with this alleged equivalence. A collaboration control program is defined on page 4 of the present application:

> A collaboration control program runs on each PC 3 associated with a telephone 1. This program has the capability of communicating over the LAN 5 with the phone 1 to control the collaborate indicator 7 and sense actuation of the collaborate button 9. The collaboration control program includes a list of all collaboration application programs installed which have been registered with the collaboration control program on the PC 3, including information about their capabilities and communication protocols (e.g. H.323). The collaboration control program has the capability of

> launching a collaboration application program, or, in the event that it is already running in the background, to bring the collaboration application program to the foreground. This is accomplished using well known capabilities of the PC Operating System.
>
> The collaboration control program also has the ability to communicate with the collaboration control programs of remote PCs via the LAN 5. It has the capability to request (or respond to a request for) a list of collaboration application programs from a remote PC via the PC's Operating System. Finally, it has the capability to compare remote and local collaboration application programs and, by comparing supported protocols, determine whether the mutual collaboration application programs can inter-operate in a shared work environment.

The call gapping feature of Elliott does not include a list of all collaboration application programs installed that have been registered with the collaboration program. Further, it does not have the capability of launching a control application program as defined above. It does not have the ability to bring a collaboration application program from the background to the foreground. It does not have the capability to communicate with other collaboration control programs and to request a list of collaboration application programs from a remote PC. Finally, it does not have the capability to compare remote and local collaboration application programs and by comparing, determine whether the mutual programs can interoperate in a shared work environment.

In the Examiner's Advisory Action, the Examiner claims to be "convinced that collaboration traits are in fact present within the Elliott prior art." The Examiner refers to applicants' own definition, where video conferencing is said to be a form of collaboration. Examiner then states that the Elliott prior art features means for video conferencing (through H.323). This is both irrelevant and incorrect. As previously argued in applicants' response to the final office action, H.323 is a communication protocol. It is generic. It may be useful to collaboration, but it does not provide collaboration control itself. The definition in Elliott, column 43, lines 45 through 55 indicates that "H.323 standards are important building blocks for a broad new range of collaborative, LAN based applications . . . ." This is consistent with applicants' statement that H.323 may serve as a communication protocol for a collaboration program (see page 4, line 6). While Elliott contemplates that H.323 is a "building block" for "collaborative, LAN based applications", there is no disclosure of any "collaboration

application programs" in Elliott. In any event, collaboration programs in and of themselves are known in the art (see applicants' BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION). It is applicants' claimed system and method for initiating a collaborative session between multiple parties without time consuming setup processes that distinguishes from the prior art (including Elliott). Specifically, applicants recite an "indicator" in combination with other elements (independent claims 1, 12, 13, 14), a "user input device" in combination with other elements (independent claims 16, 27, 28) and a "computer program" (independent claim 29) to initiate such collaborative sessions.

With respect to independent claim 1, the Examiner maintains that Elliott et al. (US 6,614,781) discloses, inter alia, (i) "integrated computer telephony devices supporting collaboration application programs", (ii) "an indicator on at least one of said integrated computer telephony devices", and (iii) "a collaborate control program associated with each of said at least two integrated computer telephony devices for detecting commonly supported ones of said collaboration application programs and in response activating said indicator".

Firstly, Elliott et al. does not disclose "collaboration application programs" within the meaning of applicants' specification (see the definition of collaboration appearing on page 3 of the detailed description of the present application). This definition is not congruent with the features cited by the Examiner on page 2 of the final office action. See also the discussion above concerning the Examiner's Advisory Action.

Secondly, Elliott does not disclose or suggest any "indicator on at least one of said integrated computer telephony devices." Examiner refers to an "answer indicator" at column 112, element 8, of Elliott. Applicants' "indicator" is recited as being "on" one of said integrated computer telephony devices. This is supported throughout applicants' disclosure, for example, at page 3, line 19, where the collaborate indicator 7 "can be in the form of an LED or other suitable visual indicator." The "answer indicator" of Elliott (the un-numbered element between Element 4 and Element 6, not Element 8 identified by the Examiner) is not "on" anything, since it is not a visual indicator. Rather, the "answer indicator" of Elliott is an "Element" forming part of an Event Block, which is data. Elliott simply does not teach or suggest any "indicator on at least one of said integrated computer telephony devices" as recited in claim 1.

Lastly, Elliott does not teach or suggest "a collaborate control program associated with each of said at least two integrated computer telephony devices for detecting commonly supported ones of said collaboration application programs and in response activating said indicator." For one thing, as discussed above, Elliott does not disclose "collaboration application programs" within the meaning of the present invention. See applicants' previously submitted arguments refuting the Examiner's equating of collaboration application programs with service control points on the one hand, and call gapping on the other hand. Moreover, Elliott does not disclose "activating said indicator" since the "answer indicator" of Elliott is a data element that is incapable of being "activated" within the meaning of the present specification. Also, to the extent that the "answer indicator" of Elliott is capable of being "activated" at all, there is certainly no suggestion that the "answer indicator" is "activated" in response to "detecting commonly supported ones of said collaboration application programs."

As applicants consider all of the Examiner's arguments traversed, the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) must be reversed.

2. Claim 12

Independent claim 12 relates to a method for controlling an indicator of commonly supported collaboration application programs and was rejected as being anticipated by Elliott. The rejection of claim 12 relies upon many of the portions of Elliott that have been cited by the Examiner in rejecting claim 1. Elliott, however, does not teach or suggest "collaboration application programs," or "an indicator on at least one of said telephones," as discussed above in connection with claim 1. Moreover, claim 12 recites "a method for controlling said indicator." Since Elliott does not teach or suggest any "indicator" on a telephone, it cannot possibly disclose a method for controlling such an indicator. As such, the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) must be reversed.

3. Claim 13

Independent claim 13 relates to an apparatus for use in a collaborative computer telephony system and was rejected as being anticipated by Elliott. Applicants again disagree. Nowhere in the cited reference is a "collaborative control means" disclosed.

The applicants' previous arguments regarding claim 1 are equally pertinent here. The cited excerpt is not directed towards "collaboration" as defined in the specification.

The Examiner also relates a collaborative control means to H.323 standard in the comments regarding claim 13. Applicants disagree with this contention. The aforementioned excerpt of page 4 of the present application clearly defines the relationship between collaboration control and H.323, which is a communication protocol. It is generic. It may be useful to collaboration, but it does not provide collaboration control itself. The definition in Elliott at column 43, lines 45 through 55, indicates that "H.323 standards are important building blocks for a broad new range of collaborative, LAN base applications. . . ." The Examiner's application of this language is misleading in two respects. First, the use of the term collaborative in this passage is consistent with the use of collaborative throughout Elliott. It is not, however, consistent with the use of collaboration established by the instant application in the aforementioned excerpts. Second, it is clear that H.323 is merely a standard for the support of applications. It does not, in and of itself, actually provide the functionality of collaboration, either according to the Elliott definition or according to the application definition.

Further, Elliott does not teach or suggest any "indicator means for indicating that a collaborative session is set up with another computer telephony apparatus," or any "collaborative control means." As discussed above, the "answer indicator" of Elliott is a data element representing "information" forming part of an Event Block for storage in a master network event database 226. There is absolutely no suggestion whatsoever that the "answer indicator" data element of Elliott would be capable of "indicating that a collaborative session is set up with another computer telephony apparatus" as recited in claim 13. Elliott simply does not teach or suggest any "collaborative session" within the meaning of applicants' specification. As such, the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) must be reversed.

4. Claims 14-15

Independent claim 14 relates to a computer program for controlling a computer and was rejected as being anticipated by Elliott. The rejection of claim 14 relies upon many of the portions of Elliott that have been cited by the Examiner in rejecting claim 1.

Elliott, however, does not teach or suggest any "collaborative session" within the meaning of applicants' specification. Also, there is no "issuing" of an "activation signal to activate an indicator" in Elliott. The inclusion of an indication within a route response to initiate call gapping for a congested call, is not the equivalent of activating an "indicator" within the meaning of the present specification.

As such, the rejection of claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) must be reversed.

5. Claims 16-26

Independent claim 16 relates to a collaborative computer telephony system. The Examiner has stated that claim 16 recites the same limitations as claim 1 (paragraph 10 of the final office action). Claim 16 was therefore analyzed and rejected by the same rationale as claim 1. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's conclusion that claim 16 recites the same limitations as claim 1 (*e.g.,* claim 16 recites a "user input device on at least one of said integrated computer telephony devices"). Nonetheless, applicants submit that claim 16 is patentable in view of the arguments set forth above in support of claim 1. As such, the rejection of claims 16-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) must be reversed.

6. Claim 27

Independent claim 27 relates to a method involving computers that support collaboration application programs and includes "collaboration application programs," and "an indicator on at least one of said telephones," The rejection of claim 27 relies upon many of the portions of Elliott that have been cited by the Examiner in rejecting claim 1. Elliott, however, does not teach or suggest "collaboration application programs" as discussed above in connection with claim 1. Claim 27 also includes "user activation of said user input device." Elliott, however, does not teach or suggest this feature. In fact, Elliott does not contemplate any user input device whatsoever. The Examiner's discussion of call gapping does not appear to be relevant whatsoever to the recitation of "user activation of said user input device." As such, the rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) must be reversed.

7. Claim 28

Independent claim 28 relates to a computer telephony apparatus for use in a collaborative computer telephony system. This claim includes "user activation of said user input." As such, the Examiner's rejection of claim 28 fails for the same reason as the rejection of claim 27 discussed above. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) must be reversed.

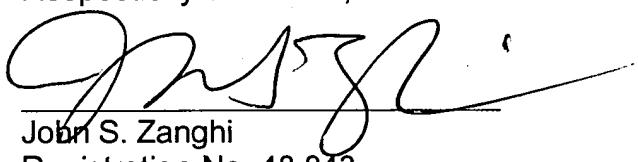
8. Claims 29-30

Independent claim 29 relates to a computer program for controlling a computer to "receive a request for a collaborative session with at least one second computer," among other things. Elliott, however, does not teach or suggest applicants' recited "collaborative session." The Examiner's reference to Elliott teaching "activating said indicator at said first telephone . . ." does not make much sense. Claim 29 does not recite this feature. It would appear that the Examiner carelessly pasted arguments from an earlier claim into claim 29. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) must be reversed.

IX. CONCLUSION

For all of the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are in error and that claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance. For all of the above reasons, Appellants respectfully request this Honorable Board to reverse the rejections of claims 1-30.

Respectfully submitted,



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CLAIMS APPENDIX

CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL:

1. (Original) A collaborative computer telephony system, comprising:

a communication network;

a plurality of integrated computer telephony devices connected to the network and identified by unique IP addresses, at least two of said integrated computer telephony devices supporting collaboration application programs;

an indicator on at least one of said integrated computer telephony devices; and

a collaborate control program associated with each of said at least two integrated computer telephony devices for detecting commonly supported ones of said collaboration application programs and in response activating said indicator.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a user input device on said at least one of said integrated computer telephony devices for launching said commonly supported ones of said collaboration application programs in the event said indicator is activated.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said network is a local area network.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said network is the Internet.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said collaboration application programs include video conferencing applications, fax applications, document sharing applications, and shared whiteboard applications.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said integrated computer telephony devices each further comprise a telephone and a computer.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said computer and telephone are each connected directly to the network.

8. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said computer is connected to said telephone which in turn is connected directly to the network.

9. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said telephone is connected to said computer which in turn is connected directly to the network.

10. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said indicator further comprises a light on said telephone and said user input device is a button on said telephone.

11. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said indicator and user input device further comprise a graphical user interface on said computer.

12. (Original) In a collaborative computer telephony system including a communication network, a plurality of telephones and associated computers connected to the network and identified by respective IP addresses, at least two of said computers supporting collaboration application programs, and an indicator on at least one of said telephones, a method for controlling said indicator comprising the steps of

exchanging IP addresses of said at least two computers over said network;

issuing a request from a first one of said computers to a second one of said computers for a list of said collaboration application programs supported by said second one of said computers;

comparing said list with a further list of supported ones of said collaboration application programs within said first computer; and

activating said indicator at said first telephone in the event of at least one commonly supported ones of said collaboration application in said first and second ones of said computers.

13. (Previously presented) Computer telephony apparatus for use in a collaborative computer telephony system comprising a network and a plurality of terminals, said apparatus comprising:

indicator means for indicating that a collaborative session is set up with another computer telephony apparatus; and

collaborative control means for detecting the presence of collaborative control means in said another computer telephony apparatus and for activating said indicator means in response.

14. (Original) A computer program for controlling a computer to:

receive a request for a collaborative session at least one second computer,

issue a request to said at least one second computer over a network for a list of collaborative programs supported by said at least second computer,

compare said list with a list of supported collaboration programs within said computer; and

issuing an activation signal to activate an indicator in the event that at least one collaborative program is commonly supported by said computer and said at least one second computer.

15. (Original) A carrier medium carrying the computer program of claim 14.

16. (Previously presented) A collaborative computer telephony system, comprising:

a communication network;

a plurality of integrated computer telephony devices connected to the network, at least two of said integrated computer telephony devices supporting collaboration application programs for implementing communication sessions therebetween;

a user input device on at least one of said integrated computer telephony devices; and

a collaborate control program associated with each of said at least two integrated computer telephony devices for detecting commonly supported ones of said collaboration application programs and initiating said communication session in response to user activation of said user input device.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, further comprising an indicator on said at least one of said integrated computer telephony devices for indicating detection of said commonly supported ones of said collaboration application programs.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said network is a local area network.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said network is the internet.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said collaboration application programs include video conferencing applications, fax application, document sharing applications, and shared whiteboard applications.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein said integrated computer telephony devices each further comprise a telephone and a computer.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said computer and telephone are each connected directly to the network.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said computer is connected to said telephone which in turn is connected directly to the network.

24. (Previously presented) A system of claim 21, wherein said telephone is connected to said computer which in turn is connected directly to the network.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said indicator further comprises a light on said telephone and said user input device is a button on said telephone.

26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said indicator and user input device further comprise a graphical user interface on said computer.

27. (Previously presented) In a collaborative computer telephony system including a communication network, a plurality of telephones and associated computers connected to the network and identified by respective IP addresses, at least two of said computers supporting collaboration application programs, and a user input device on at least one of said telephones, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting user activation of said user input device;

exchanging IP addresses of said at least two computers over said network;

issuing a request from a first one of said computers to a second one of said computers for a list of said collaboration application programs supported by said second one of said computers:

comparing said list with a further list of supported ones of said collaboration application programs within said first computer; and

initiating a communication session between said first and second ones of said computers in the event of at least one commonly supported collaboration application in said first and second ones of said computers.

28. (Previously presented) Computer telephony apparatus for use in a collaborative computer telephony system having a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

a user input for initiating a collaborative session with another computer telephony apparatus; and

collaborative control means for detecting the presence of collaborative controlled means in said another computer telephony apparatus in response to user activation of said user input.

29. (Previously presented) A computer program for controlling a computer to:

receive a request for a collaborative session with at least one second computer;

issue a request to set at least one second computer over a network for a list of collaborative programs supported by said at least one second computer;

compare said list with a list of supported collaboration programs within said computer; and

initiate said collaborative session in the event that at least one collaborative program is commonly supported by said computer and said at least one second computer.

30. (Previously presented) A carrier medium carrying the computer program of claim 29.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

NONE

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

NONE